

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOR SCIATT FROM AEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, OTRA, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: TREATMENT OF
RADIOACTIVE WASTE

REF: A. MOSCOW 10678 B. MOSCOW 11257

USAEC HAS REVIEWED SOVIET PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN REF A AND
HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

1. ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME INTEREST IN SOVIET PROPOSAL,
AEC'S BASIC INTEREST AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED IS CONCERNED
WITH HIGH LEVEL WASTE, E.G., WASTE FROM AN IRRADIATED
FUEL PROCESSING PLANT;

2. AEC IS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING PROGRAMS IN BEING AND
PLANNED FOR MANAGEMENT OF WASTE FROM PROCESSING OF
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HIGHLY IRRADIATED NUCLEAR REACTOR FUELS SUCH AS FROM

ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCING SYSTEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, SHORT TERM STORAGE SUCH AS IN TANKS, METHODS OF SOLIDIFICATION TO FORMS SUCH AS OXIDES, VITREOUS FORMS, PACKAGING AND INTERIM STTS OF THESE WASTE FORMS, AND STUDIES AND PROGRAMS OF EVENTUAL DISPOSALS OF THESE WASTE FORMS;

3. AEC HAS INTEREST IN PROGRAMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF PLUTONIUM-CONTAMINATED WASTES, I.E., TREATMENT, INTERIM STORAGE AND DISPOSAL;

4. LAST AREA OF INTEREST TO AEC, ALTHOUGH TO LESSER DEGREE, IS THE MANAGEMENT OF RELATIVELY LARGE VOLUMES OF OTHER THAN HIGH LEVEL WASTES THAT ARE PRODUCED IN A SPENT FUEL PROCESSING PLANT, E.G., SOLVENT WASH WATERS.

5. SINCE SOVIET PROGRAM OUTLINED IN REF A DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE ABOVE INTERSTS, AEC MUST DECLINE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AUGUST VISIT.

6. IF SOVIETS PREPARED TO ARRANGE DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS CORRESPONDING TO ABOVE, AEC SUGGESTS POSSIBLE TEAM VISIT TO SOVIET UNION AT LATER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME.
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